

Wake County Firearms Ordinance

Wake County Board of Commissioners

October 17, 2022

Tim Maloney, Director, Planning Development and Inspections



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Background

- Public Safety Committee August 22, 2022
- Public Hearing September 6, 2022
- Listening Session September 13, 2022
- Special Work Session September 19, 2022
- Work Session October 10, 2022

Wake County Firearms Ordinance

- No discharge on/from public street or highway
- No discharge within 100 yards of a dwelling, public building, or livestock.
- The projectile may not leave the property from which it is lawfully discharged on.
- Penalty for violation is a class 3 misdemeanor and \$50 fine.
- Local jurisdictions cannot regulate the discharge of firearms when used for hunting animals or birds (§153A-129).

Proposed Amendments

1. Increase the minimum distance from a dwelling, public building or livestock in which a person may discharge a firearm from 100 yards to 300 yards.
2. Require a backstop that meets industry standards or at least meets the height and width standards specified in the ordinance (height must extend 4' above the target and 2' thick).
3. Only fixed, stationary targets at which the firearm is specifically aimed, directed and fired upon may be used.
4. Prohibit the discharge of a firearm between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.
5. Increase the maximum fine for violation from \$50 to the statutory limit of \$500.

Public Awareness

1. Create a webpage on the County's website that outlines the rules and standards of the Firearms Ordinance so that it's easy to understand.
2. Provide a downloadable template of the "Permission Form" when seeking permission from neighbors to reduce the 300-yard distance requirement.

Next Step

This item will be placed on the November 9, 2022, Board of Commissioners meeting for a second reading and consideration of adoption.

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